

7-5-2006

# The Daily Gamecock, Wednesday, July 5, 2006

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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# THE GAMECOCK

The University of South Carolina

Wednesday, July 5, 2006

Vol. 100, No. 5 • Since 1908

## HONOR CODE EDIT IN WORKS

*Modifications to  
Carolinian Creed  
aimed toward  
cheating prevention*

Ben Crane

THE GAMECOCK

The Office of Student Judicial Programs is working on a modified Academic Honor Code for the coming fall.

Judicial Programs will present the code proposal for the changes they wish to make to the Faculty Senate later this summer.

The Center for Academic Integrity, an organization that works in cooperation with almost 400 institutions, has surveyed almost 50,000 students on more than 60 campuses since 2002. In June of 2005, results showed that 70% of students admitted to cheating. The CAI also found that Honor Codes on campuses often lower cheating occurrences by one-third to one-half.

"Schools who use a one-strike policy have faculty and students that are hesitant to 'go forward' with cases due

CODE • 2



Nick Esares / THE GAMECOCK

**Future students take a tour of USC to familiarize themselves with the campus.  
Most new students will visit campus several times before their first day of classes.**

## Bring On The Freshmen 4200

Carllynn D'Angelo

THE GAMECOCK

Friday was the last day of the month-long orientation for the upcoming fall semester.

This year saw more than 4,200 incoming students, up from the 3,600 students of last year.

Each year incoming freshman and

transfer students are brought to campus for their introduction into life at the university and all that has to offer. Throughout the day students attend opening sessions, meet with their new advisers and spend time with their new peers, both incoming students and old alike.

ORIENTATION • 2

## TARGET SPONSORS DORM CONTEST

Drew Brooks

NEWS EDITOR

USC is taking a page from TLC.

Instead of the stark, white dormroom and the standard desk, chair and bed for furniture that most incoming students will move into in the fall, a pair of roommates will get a surprise and move into a room that already has living touches.

Target and University Housing are teaming up to provide one room with a makeover.

Room numbers will be drawn from out of Sims dormitory, with the corresponding roommates receiving the prizes.

Housing will help the winners move their new belongings into their dorm.

The drawing will give a pair of incoming freshmen a head start on getting comfortable in college.

Target is giving away a package that includes bedding, bath supplies, lighting and decorations such as picture frames, said Heather Hook, an

TARGET • 2

### INDEX

Classifieds.....	8
Calendar.....	4
Opinion.....	3

### THE MIX

#### Back From Krypton

*Latest Superman flick  
flying high at box office*

### VIEWPOINTS

#### Happy July Fourth!

*Lawmakers, students  
enjoy perks of holiday*

### SPORTS

#### Balkman Buzz

*First round draft pick  
gets sneers and cheers*



**ORIENTATION ● CONTINUED FROM 1**

Zack Stern, a third year accounting major, has been an orientation leader for two years and said this interaction is one of the most important aspects of introducing new students to USC.

"It's important for incoming students to get a good impression of the school, and its already existing students. I like knowing that I'm doing my best to give everyone a good impression of our students by being the first thing they

see," Stern said.

While orientation may be a little overwhelming, many students find it very reassuring.

For many students, especially those coming from out of state, this may still be one of the first times they see the campus in person.

Incoming first year Pharmacy major Julia Deming explained, "Coming from out of state, I've only see the campus one time before now. Now that I have my schedule and my dorm, the buildings have a

lot more meaning to me."

"I was really relieved to get to see the school one more time before moving here," Deming added.

In addition to all the information these students receive, everyone is shown where they are going to live for the next year so that parents and students alike can get a feel for the upcoming school year.

Not only are students being introduced to USC during orientation, but their parents are included as well.

While students are

meeting with advisors, parents are attending financial and parent development seminars to help themselves and their kids get ready for the school year.

Emily Davis, Assistant Director of the Orientation and Testing Office said, "The parents of this generation are more involved, and we want to include them in getting everyone off on the right foot."

By the end of the day, parents are fully briefed on everything from tuition and meal plans to dorm life and

classes.

By the close of orientation each upcoming student is complete with housing assignment, schedule, VIP account and information on everything they'll need to know for the new school year.

"By the end of the day each person really is an official USC student. When they leave, you can really see it in their face; they're really excited to be here," Davis said.

*Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu)*

**TARGET ● CONTINUED FROM 1**

undergraduate assistant for University Housing.

If the winners are unsatisfied with any item, Target will allow them to exchange it for a similar item, said Hook.

Caroline Fogle, a campus recruiter for Target Stores, said the drawing is a "great opportunity to get back on campus."

A number of Target executives are USC graduates, Fogle said.

This is the second year that Target has sponsored the drawing at USC. Last year, the drawing was held in Capstone.

Last year's winners were Tabby Harris, a second-year student in the Moore

School of Business, and Mallory Morris, a second-year theatre major.

Fogle said that the room giveaway program was expanding to other colleges around the state as well, including Clemson and Anderson College as past participants.

Target, which describes itself as an "upscale discounter," has two stores in the Columbia, SC area. One is at 134 Harbison Boulevard, while the other is located at 10204 Two Notch Road.

In total, there are 1418 Target Stores in 47 states, according to Target's corporate fact card.

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*Nick Esares / THE GAMECOCK*

**University Housing and Target sponsor a dorm room makeover for a select residence hall each year. This year the lucky winner of the contest will be living in the Sims dormitory.**

**CODE ● CONTINUED FROM 1**

to the severity," said Scott Lewis, Director of Judicial Affairs.

USC's Academic Honor Code can be summed up in the Carolinian Creed: "I will practice personal and academic integrity." Judicial Affairs is not planning on completely changing this code of ethics, but rather making improvements that will better enable them to properly handle violators.

USC offers several possible

sanctions but is not as flexible as a modified honor code, said Lewis. Students caught cheating could be suspended or expelled from school, and this scares students and professors from turning offenders in because they do not want to be responsible for that level of punishment.

Lewis wants to create a system where "the punishment fits the crime."

Lewis said that with a fair system, students and professors would report

many more incidents. This attitude will raise awareness across campus and will, in turn, substantially reduce the amount of cheating.

This modified academic honor code would raise the value of the educations received here, said Lewis.

"A degree coming from a school that prides itself on academic integrity brings money and prestige to students," he said.

"It will not be enforcement alone that will enhance USC's reputation, but the

overall commitment of the faculty, staff and students to integrating the concepts into the classroom, their relationships, their jobs and their lives."

Bobby Callahan, a fourth-year criminal justice major, said, "I would have to agree with a new policy of having the punishment fit the crime. With sanctions other than just being kicked out of school, it would make the professors more comfortable with turning in cheating students. No

professor wants to carry the burden of knowing they were responsible for that student being kicked out of school."

Callahan liked the fact that more serious crimes could be punished more severely than others.

More academic integrity research results and information from CAI can be found at [www.academicintegrity.org](http://www.academicintegrity.org).

*Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu)*



## CRIME REPORT

**June 21, 2006**

**Assault and Battery of a High and Aggravated Nature  
Blossom Street Garage overpass**

Amanda Failing, 32, was driving under the overpass when a brick was thrown through her front windshield. Failing had small scratches on her left arm, forehead and both feet, but refused EMS assistance.

**June 21, 2006**

**Larceny of Money  
Bates House**

Anthony Williams,

16, stated that unknown person(s) took \$35 from his room.

**June 23, 2006**

**2nd Degree Burglary  
Larceny of Merchandise  
Russell House Bookstore**

Stephen Conrad, 24, reported that unknown subjects created a hole in construction sheetrock and gained entry into the store. It was unsure exactly what was stolen.

**June 24, 2006**

**Grand Larceny (Automobile)  
Blossom Street Garage**

Alexis Joyce, 22, reported that her four-door blue Dodge Intrepid was stolen. Estimated Value: \$18,000

**June 26, 2006**

**Assistance Rendered  
McKissick**

Alexander Martin, 21, had asthma problems. First responder and EMS

were notified and Martin was transported to Baptist Hospital by EMS.

**June 26, 2006**

**Larceny of CD player  
McMaster**

Renee Rouiller, 55, stated that unknown person(s) removed her CD player. Rouiller also stated that over the past couple of weeks, several areas appeared to have been "looked through." Estimated Value: \$200

**June 26, 2006**

**Missing Inventory  
Jones Physical Science Building**

Candance Keels, 57, reported several pieces of laboratory equipment unaccounted for. The items have been missing since 2005. Estimated Values: \$7,208, \$7,425 and \$12,918

**June 28, 2006**

**Illegal Use of Phone**

**Bates House**

Dana Broughton, 25, stated an unknown person called her several times and made threatening remarks.

**June 29, 2006**

**Larceny of Chair  
Business Administration Building**

Cynthia Barker, 43, witnessed an unknown white female rolling a brand new office chair to a blue Chevrolet. The suspect was then driven away by an unknown black male. Estimated Value: \$40

**June 30, 2006**

**Grand Larceny of Laptops  
Graduate Research Science Center**

Unknown persons took three Dell laptops and two cell phones. Estimated Value: \$4,160.

Cecil Jamison, 42, was later apprehended in possession of one of the laptops and the two cell phones.

**July 1-2, 2006**

**Larceny from Coin Operated Device  
Gambrell  
Malicious Injury to Real Property  
Law Center  
Malicious Injury to Real Property  
Swearengin**

Over two days, three coin-operated machines, including a change machine, a Coke machine and two Carolina Card vending machines were vandalized. Estimated Value: \$1400

Joseph Lagree, 37, of Columbia later confessed to counts of Malicious Injury to Real Property, Trespassing and 3rd Degree Burglary.

**July 2, 2006**

**Larceny of Camera  
McMaster**

Renee Rouiller, 55, stated that unknown person(s) took her black Cannon digital camera. Estimated Value: \$350

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MAGIC  
The Gathering  
QUALIFIER

MAGIC  
The Gathering  
GRAND PRIX

DCI

\*Go to [www.wizards.com/magic](http://www.wizards.com/magic) for official rules.





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## IN OUR OPINION

### *Fourth of July means family, friends and a four day weekend*

There are a few things that every student wants in life. Regardless of gender, race, creed, upbringing or nationality, everyone likes time off.

But, despite the almost overwhelmingly obvious nature of that opening statement, somebody up in scheduling has not heard about it yet.

The Summer I period ended last Thursday. We had yesterday off. Summer II did not start today, as logic would dictate. It started on Monday. Before the fourth of July.

Long weekends for potentially distant drives to spend time with your family and friends on the Fourth of July are, of course, just

totally and absolutely unnecessary. Having students attend school on the July third, however, is essential.

July Fourth could have been given the respect it deserves by giving everyone the previous Monday off.

Wednesday may have been a slow day with people skipping class to get back from around the country – something USC should be proud of when it comes to attracting out-of-state students – but at least the students at summer school would have had a substantial holiday break.

It's a simple solution to a simple problem. USC should simply have just started the semester after the holiday.



Courtesy of KRT Campus

## *America Fever extends beyond a normal view of patriotism*

### **Lawmakers exploit national holiday to the point of absurdity**

While watching the news during the weeks leading up to the Fourth of July, I asked myself: if conservative politicians in Washington can exploit the seasonal patriotism, can a liberal columnist in South Carolina do the same?



**TIM MCMANUS**  
 Fifth-year print journalism student

Trying to pass an amendment that would criminalize burning flags is a Fourth of July favorite.

Conservatives, as well as many liberals catch "America Fever" and vote for such amendments.

The patriot in me, however, says we should pass an amendment that criminalizes the metaphorical burning of the Bill of Rights.

Should a politician propose, vote for, or secretly support activity contrary to any of the first 10 amendments, they should be punished in a just and American way.

Voting for the flag burning amendment, as well as The Patriot Act, or secret NSA phone tapping would now be crimes.

Oh, I almost forgot: our troops died to defend these rights, and the politicians ignoring this are nothing short of disgraceful.

Speaking of disgracing dead people, putting your own opinions into the

mouths of our Founding Fathers is also unpatriotic.

This is often done by people who support various wars. "Our country began with the Revolutionary War," some say, "so if you don't support this war, you're not American!"

Founding Father Benjamin Franklin spent 1765 through 1775 in England, trying to convince the English that if they continue their pig-headed governing of the colonies, the colonists would declare war.

Anybody who says this is the action of a war hawk is clearly unpatriotic.

Another hot-button issue when wanting to exploit patriotism is gay marriage. Last week, a generic-minded senator said marriage is a sacred union between a man and a woman.

I'm not saying opposing gay marriage is unpatriotic, but as a columnist, I have to come up with a new way to think about an idea. And it irritates me that politicians, who are to a certain extent paid to think, can't come up with a remotely original thought, so I'm calling this unpatriotic. Why? Because our Founding Fathers, men of the Enlightenment, cherished original thought.

That excuse wasn't bad.

And so, my fellow Americans, remember, around the Fourth of July, associate everything you say with being American and loving your country. Otherwise, people may judge you on the substance of what you say.



## FLY THE RED, YELLOW AND BLUE

*New remake pays homage to predecessors with modern twist*

Alexis Arnone  
THE MIX EDITOR

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's the number one movie of the summer!

Yes, it's true. The "Man of Steel" has returned to Earth, and with a pretty big entrance no less. For all those comic book hero worshippers out there, take a deep breath. The moment you have been waiting for has occurred, and will blow you away harder than Superman's tremendous breath.

The first wave of nostalgia will occur once the first soft strains of the original music (produced by the master of theme tunes, John Williams) rolls in with the opening credits. They alone might bring a tear to the eye of the devoted Superman fans out there as they were fashioned directly from the original movies, with a little updated computer enhancement. Remember the bright, neon-blue lights flying by? Oh yeah, they're still here.

The movie continues with the ex-con Lex Luthor (wearing a rather creepy looking wig to disguise his baldness) swindling an old lady out of her fortune.

SUPERMAN ● 1

## Latest Boards of Canada release entices fans to the dance floor

### "Trans Canada Highway"

Boards of Canada

★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆☆

Blake Arambula

THE GAMECOCK

Mike Sandison and Marcus Eoin come together once more to sate the few

but enthusiastic Intelligent Dance Music (IDM) fans that still exist. Rather than act as fellow Warp Records alum Richard D. James and produce an album of old, collected songs, Trans Canada Highway provides the 5-minute-song-drone-alongs that will get any intelligent thinker to the

dance floor.

"Dayvan Cowboy," sadly, isn't all that new though, and was showcased on "The Campfire Headphase" in 2005, (but somehow makes its reappearance here alongside a remix) as either a marketing strategy or maybe just filler. When your name is constantly heralded

as the forefront of modern electronic music and consistently compared to the likes of other artists who are seizing "your sound," there isn't much doubt that fans of BOC will already have "The Campfire Headphase" bought and paid for the t-shirt. You see, at this point in BOC's life, the constant

pressure to produce ever-astounding works of art in sound form is mind numbing. There are only so many beats-per-minute and only so many routes you can take an electronic song all while staying in the veins of accessibility.

"Left Side Drive" utilizes

CANADA ● 1



## SUPERMAN ● CONTINUED FROM 6

That old lady? The original Lois Lane. Kudos Bryan Singer, kudos. Side note: the original Jimmy Olsen playing bartender Bo comes in later. Disappointing a little bit, Lex Luthor later portrays himself as not quite the badass villain and more of the goofy “life just worked out in my favor” villain. Still, Kevin Spacey kicked some major booty being Luthor. Of course, it IS Kevin Spacey.

When Superman actually does return to Earth and crash lands in his backyard, it's a bittersweet welcome home with his mother and co-workers as he goes back to work at The Daily Planet. Of course, he brings in his pseudonym Clark Kent to keep his awesome alter ego under wraps. Christopher Reeve gave his blessing to Brandon Routh to play his old character, and once

you get a glimpse of this guy in his blue tights and red cape, you'll give yours as well. Routh clearly kicks it back to Reeve in this movie, and nobody would have been able to do it better. He's even got that sweet hair curl in the front.

Lois Lane (Kate Bosworth) has a child and is engaged to good guy Richard, who also played Cyclops in the X-Men movies (which explains why he got killed off within the first 20 minutes of X3). The child is curiously a little weak and allergic to a lot of things. Coincidence? Probably not, but watch the movie instead of reading more into this review than you should. Lane still has her hang-ups with Superman but allows him to rescue her on more than one occasion during the movie while fighting her true feelings. Her broken-hearted bitterness

comes to light when she is up for a Nobel Prize for her piece, “Why the World Doesn't Need Superman.” But she's totally over it.

Luthor and his relatively silent henchman/lover, Kitty, prepare to submerge a good portion of the world underwater and create new, craggy, beachfront property. Lane tries to stop them but it is ultimately Superman who foils the plan. However, Luthor has a quick trick up his sleeve involving the Man of Steel's true arch-nemesis, Kryptonite.

All in all, this movie will knock you back to Krypton. Battling for the number one spot with swash-buckling Pirates of the Caribbean sequel coming out Thursday may be the toughest battle Superman has to fight all summer.

*Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu)*

## CANADA ● CONTINUED FROM 6

the reversal technique that thousands of electronic artists have plagiarized from them over the years, but let it be known that it was BOC's seminal ideas which were the reason IDM and like genres actually perpetuated somewhat rather than met an early demise. “Skyliner” could easily be one of the best tracks on the EP simply for its dynamic beat and upbeat sound. This makes it stick out amid the other more ambient songs, suitable for a wildlife soundtrack.

The final remix of “Dayvan Cowboy” imbues sound swells and shifting tones that go from almost inaudible melodies to progressively busy, beat-infected blasts of silence, volume and strings. Trans Canada Highway, then, is but a fall back to early, more ambient times. The Campfire Headphase had

vibrant changes from one song to the next; swells on one song would never be heard from again. But now, something has changed within the BOC men, and this EP is emotive of that.

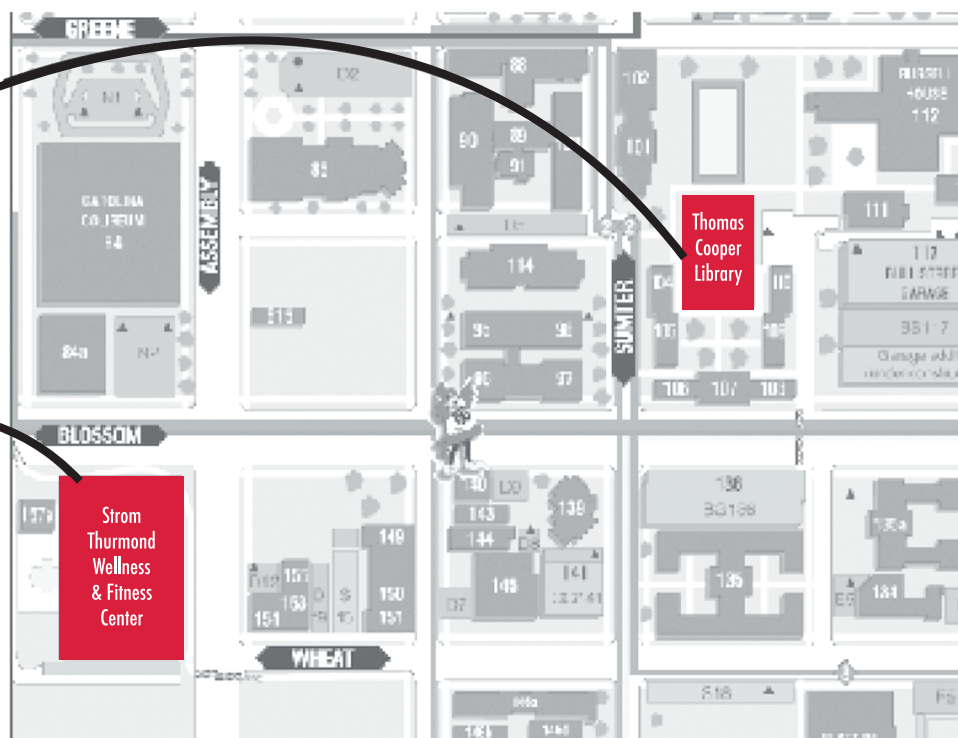
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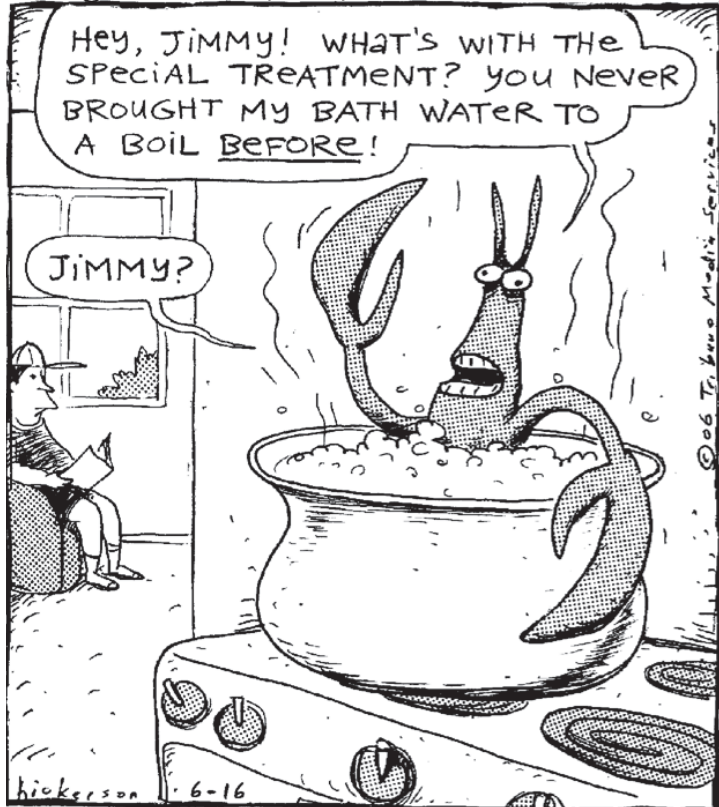
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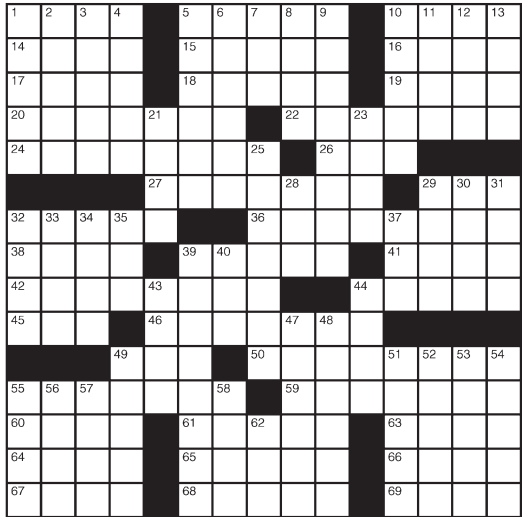


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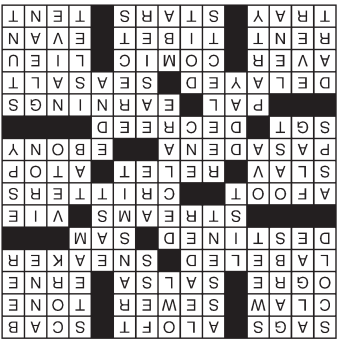
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Solutions

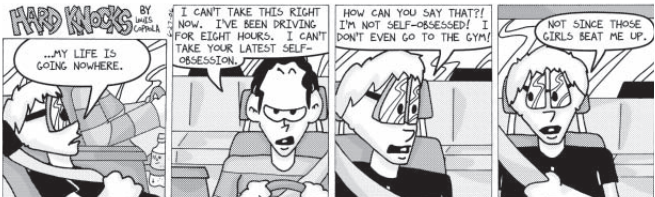


- 51 Map dot
- 52 Wet behind the ears
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- 56 Of all time
- 57 Olin of "The Ninth Gate"
- 58 Get something done
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USC Nowhere ● By Inemesit Imoh



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Scene @ USC

Band of Horses



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**CAPTURED, ADISON CROFT AND BEFORE NORMANDY:** 7 p.m. New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St. \$7 under 21, \$5 over.  
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**MR. B'S GOODTIME KARAOKE EXPLOSION:** 8 p.m. Art Bar, 1221 Park

St. No cover, 21+ only.  
*Saturday:*  
**OF GOOD AND EVIL AND CRAZY STALLION:** 7 p.m. New Brookland Tavern. \$7 under 21, \$5 over.  
**"THE FALLEN IDOL":** 7, 9 p.m. Nickelodeon Theatre. \$5.50 with student ID.  
**THE REWINDS, PELANDRA AND MUNSON SUMMERS:** 10 p.m. Art Bar. \$2 cover, 21+ only.

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HOROSCOPES

**ARIES** Money's the issue. Decide what you need and where you'll get it. Others offer to help, but take care. "Easy" deals entered into now will be difficult to repay.  
**TAURUS** You imagined what you'd get when you started. What you're seeing is not quite the same. Instead of pitching a fit, review and revise your mental images.  
**GEMINI** There's way too much work, and besides, your old skills don't seem to apply. Get help from a person who's been there and done that. Don't run away; make a phone call.  
**CANCER** There's a big clash forming between love and money. You may be asked to choose. Abstain from romance and shopping.  
**LEO** Proceed with caution. Don't try to push somebody who's putting up an argument. The more insistent you get, the more persistence you'll encounter. Back off to succeed.  
**VIRGO** Tell friends you'll have to see them later. Ashy but creative person needs your attention for a while. This will be a good use of your talents, and you'll be much appreciated.  
**LIBRA** The challenge is to find a need and fill it at a profit. You're in a very imaginative phase so this is possible. Don't let playful friends distract you.  
**SCORPIO** A person who outranks you is barking orders. If you don't agree, keep your opinions to yourself.  
**SAGITTARIUS** It's more difficult to advance now. You'll work hard to hold your position.  
**CAPRICORN** It's not a good day to go shopping. You're too apt to overspend just to make a good impression on the salesperson.  
**AQUARIUS** You've been getting paid in promises for quite a while. Heed a critic's stern advice to make improvements.  
**PISCES** You're tempted to run off and leave a miserable job behind. Don't go. That would just cause more complications later.



## Balkman's House: Madison Square Garden

Alex Riley  
SPORTS EDITOR

The risk-reward ratio for Renaldo Balkman paid dividends last Wednesday night as the New York Knicks drafted the forward with the 20th pick in the first round of the 2006 NBA Draft.

Balkman, who forewent his senior season to enter the draft early, was predicted as a possible late first round pick, but most analysts placed the Tampa native as a second

round selection, if he was going to be drafted at all.

The Knicks, who finished the season at 23-59, used their first pick to handle a need for a better defensive presence at the small forward position. The teams new coach Isiah Thomas was excited about the chance to have Balkman join the team.

"He plays great defense," Thomas said. "When we saw him in Orlando, it solidified that he was the player we wanted. He plays with such intensity. We had a couple of chances to move up in the draft but the player we would have moved up for didn't excite us as much as the 'B-man'."

The ESPN hosts of the NBA draft were stunned at the selection of Balkman saying that he was a second round pick at best and couldn't understand why the Knicks would pick him at that time. But Thomas compared Balkman to some high caliber defensive names.

"Renaldo is a very unique player with unique talent," Thomas said. "He reminds me a lot of Dennis Rodman and Ron Artest."

Balkman, who averaged just under 10 points and seven rebounds a game, is the first player from USC to be selected in the draft since 1998 and the first Gamecock to go in the first round since Tom Boswell went to the Boston Celtics in 1975.

"It's a great night for Gamecocks, for Renaldo and for me," USC coach

Dave Odom said. "I am happy for all of them. He has come out of nowhere in the last three to four months and he has now been given a tremendous opportunity. Now he has to prove it. He is ready to take that challenge on and certainly if him being drafted No. 20 isn't surprising enough, it won't be if he makes the team either."

Balkman will be making his return to a city where he has seen nothing but success. After helping the Gamecocks get past Maryland two years ago to advance to the NIT finals, the defensive specialist was on the bench for the final shot of the 2005 tournament. But in this years NIT final four, Balkman did it all for the Gamecocks, scoring, rebounding, stealing and blocking shots in route to being named the NIT's MVP. Balkman joined the likes of basketball greats like Reggie Miller and Walt Frazier.

Odom, who has supported Balkman through his decision making process was excited for the now NBA-bound player and even more excited about the chance he has by playing in the Big Apple.

"I will be the fist to say he will go to New York and win their hearts," Odom said. "It's a great place to go with the way he plays and the way he looks and he will win their hearts. I don't doubt that. They will love him."



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

Balkman celebrates with family after the announcement of his first round draft pick to the New York Knicks. He is the first Gamecock to go in the first round since 1975.

Comments on this story? E-mail  
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# Rogers' benefit raises big money for scholarship fund

*Gamecock Heisman winner uses star status to give back to community*

Alex Riley  
SPORTS EDITOR

The grin of George Rogers is something to be seen. His pearly white smile, booming laugh and

warm attitude make him a people magnet. And it was no surprise that those traits were doubled in size as Rogers worked to raise money through his 16th Annual George Roger

Foundation Auction and Celebrity Golf Tournament.

Over the two-day event, hundreds of people turned out, including some of Rogers close friends from all around the country. Some of the celebrity faces included Heisman trophy winners Gino Torretta, Mike Rozier, Johnny Rodgers and Tony Dorsett, along with former Gamecock standouts like Dom Fucci, Jeff Grantz, Kevin Long, Alex Hawkins and Ronnie Collins. But the biggest name was some what of a surprise, as boxing legend Larry Holmes attended the auction portion of the event.

Along with a heavy celebrity presence and a mixture of ticket sales, sponsorships and auction items, Rogers and his foundation have been able to raise thousands of dollars in scholarship money every year to help South Carolina students attend schools around the state.

"Just to be able to say that I contributed a scholarship to a kid will take me a long way in life 'cause that's what it's all about," Rogers said. "It's all about giving back."

This year was no exception as over 20 students received scholarship money from the foundation to help further their education.

The auction featured two facets, with a silent auction containing items such as autographed footballs, helmets and jerseys from Rogers, Rozier, Dorsett, Marcus Allen, Andruw Jones and many others, while the live auction held



Juan Blas / THE GAMECOCK

George Rogers watches his shot during his celebrity golf tournament. Guests included Heisman winners and boxers.

BENEFIT • 11

## BENEFIT ● CONTINUED FROM 10

higher-valued items such as jerseys signed by Joe Namath, Michael Vick and Peyton Manning. An African safari and a trip to New York for next year's Heisman ceremony on ESPN were also auctioned.

"This is something people should get involved in," Holmes said. "George hasn't forgotten where he came from. George has a foundation to help young people and it's all worthwhile. He isn't trying to do it for his self interest. In a way he is because he does it to make his heart feel good. He puts a lot back and that's why I'm here."

Beautiful weather held on for most of that day, as the celebrities teamed up with participants in the day-long golf tournament at the University Club at Cobblestone in Blythewood. Teams of four or five took their best shot at walking home as winner of the tournament, as the organization continued to raise money through a raffle and donations.

"We all want to do everything for our friends and George is one of my close friends," said Notre Dame's 1988 National Championship quarterback Tony Rice. "He's trying to raise money for his foundation and that's what it's all about."

Even though a storm late in the afternoon put a damper on the finish of the tournament, Rogers could not have been happier.

"It just goes to show I'm blessed," Rogers said. "All my friends and all the guys that were here, that's what it's about."

Comments on this story? E-mail [gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu](mailto:gamecocksports@gwm.sc.edu)

## Commentators clueless when it comes to harsh critique of Balkman

### Knicks' choice justified for first-round draft pick

Somebody needs to shut Jay Bilas up. Like right now.

And while they shut that blabbermouth up, somebody give Stephen A. Smith a gold star.

Never thought that statement would come out in that order, but after the NBA Draft last Wednesday, that's how it needs be. After a draft that featured some stunning picks, overpasses and confusing names, the biggest story that is still resounding from the results is the pick of Renaldo Balkman by the New York Knicks.

The Knicks, one of the NBA's worst teams with a 23-59 record last year, used their first pick in the 2006 Draft live from their home court of Madison Square

Garden to select Balkman as the 20th player overall.

That's when the floodgates opened.

Bilas and the rest of the ESPN analyst crew took turns criticizing the Knicks and Isiah Thomas bashing the organization for selecting a guy who was "a second-round player" and "Nobody else would have taken him in the first round."

The rest of the night, the ESPN crew spent any moment it wasn't using to pick on Portland to insult the idea of Balkman as a first-round selection. But if these talking heads had taken the time to actually do some research, they might have seen a reason why the Knicks felt compelled to take Balkman off the board before the worthless second round of the draft.

First off, the Knicks should have had plenty of time to look at Balkman. Plenty of time. Sure, USC didn't make it to the NCAA tournament the last two years. As of today, do you think Balkman really cares?

Instead of being a team that gets knocked out in the first or second round of the Big Dance, the Gamecocks became the back-to-back champions of the NIT, played in none other than Madison Square, home to.... The Knicks.

Coincidence? I don't think so.

As of right now, Balkman has a 4-0 record inside the confines of the Garden. He has about a half dozen SportsCenter top 10 plays and two championship rings to his resume. In other words: he's had success there. They've watched him play. The New York Knicks knew exactly what they were doing when they drafted Balkman.

Secondly, for the first time since I became an ESPN junkie, Stephen A. Smith got it right. Sure, he questioned the idea of picking Balkman that early, but he came back with two statements.

No. 1: If you look at Isiah Thomas' track record when it comes to drafts, the man generally knows what he's

doing.

No. 2: The Knicks are full of guys who are shooters and ball hogs. Balkman is the type of guy who plays defense and isn't selfish. Just the type of guy the Knicks need right now. He's a defender, shot blocker and guy who gives 100%.

Well said, Stephen A. Well said indeed.

The Knicks need a guy like Balkman to show some passion and intensity for a team that lacks it. They want someone to give them drive. Well, if he plays anything like he did at USC, the Big Apple is in for a treat.

But the big thing about Smith's statement wasn't that he didn't bash Balkman, but that he gave the guy a chance. Let's face it: nobody knows how the new prospects will pan out. JJ Redick could be gone in and out of Orlando so fast it would make your head spin. But for now, there is still a chance that every name called will be on an NBA roster come next season. And that's all the chance they need.



ALEX RILEY  
Third-year print journalism student

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